



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/872,640	05/31/2001	Motasim Sirhan	020460000210	1955

20350 7590 07/22/2005

TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP  
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER  
EIGHTH FLOOR  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

THALER, MICHAEL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3731

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 31, 2005 has been entered.

Claims 1, 3-9, 12, 15-19 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The embodiment of figures 5A, 5B and 13A, as described in the specification and shown in the drawings, is inoperable. The distal end of inflation tube 26 is shown attached to the back end of inner sleeve 38 in figure 2. Although the inflation tube 26 is slidable within slit 24 since it has a cross-section which is smaller than the cross-section of slit 24, the inner sleeve 38 (which is located relative to the inflation tube 26 as shown in figure 2) will not fit into slit 24. Since the wall of the inner sleeve 38 is located

directly in line with the inflation tube 26 as shown in figure 2, the balloon structure 14 is not slidable relative to the catheter body 12 shown in figure 5A, 5B and 13A. If the inner sleeve 38 is located on the outer surface of catheter body 12, it is unclear what tube or other member connects the inflation tube 26 to the balloon. If there is such a tube, it appears that it must be smaller in diameter than the width of the narrow portion of slit 24 shown at the outer periphery of catheter body 12 shown in figure 13A (since it must pass radially outward from inflation tube 26 to the balloon through this portion of slit 24). Yet, no tube or its dimensions are disclosed.

Claims 1, 3-9, 12, 15-19 and 22-25 are free of any rejection based upon the prior art of record.

Applicant's arguments as well as the Declaration by Udayan Patel filed May 31, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant alleges that the distal end of the inflation tube 26 could form an S shaped tube that has a smaller diameter than a width of the narrow portion of slit 24 to extend out of the axial slit 24 so as to attach to the balloon structure 40 and that such a possibility for the connection between inflation tube 26 and balloon 40 would not involve undue experimentation. First of all, no such arrangement is disclosed. Inflation tube 26 is shown in figure 2 as extending

Art Unit: 3731

linearly from the balloon. No S shaped tube is disclosed. No narrowing of the tube 26 to fit through the narrow portion of slit 24 (as shown in B-B of appendix B of the Declaration) is disclosed. Further, a flexible tube 26 which is compressed and deformed to the shape shown in B-B of appendix B would frictionally press outwardly against the edges of body 12 that form the narrow portion of slit 24. It is unclear that the balloon would be able to be pushed distally along the body 12 by pushing the inflation tube (as described on page 15, lines 7-9 of the specification) due to the frictional resistance described above. Further, it is not clear from the original disclosure that the tube 26 would be sufficiently flexible to make an abrupt bend out of slit 24 and then make another bend to connect to balloon 40. The other possibility of another member or tube connected at the distal end of tube 26 is simply not disclosed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Thaler whose telephone number is (571)272-4704. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan T. Nguyen can be reached on (571)272-4963. The fax phone number for the

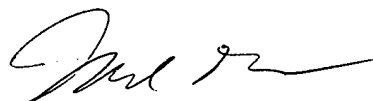
Application/Control Number: 09/872,640

Page 5

Art Unit: 3731

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is  
(703) 872-9306.

mht  
7/19/05



MICHAEL THALER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3731